



# KARO ECHO Newsletter

## KARO ECHO

Serving the communities  
of El Cerrito and  
Kensington, California

**Web:** [www.karoecho.net](http://www.karoecho.net)

**Facebook:**  
[KARO ECHO facebook](#)

**Email:** [info@karoecho.net](mailto:info@karoecho.net)

## Important Frequencies

KE Primary: 146.415 MHz  
Weekly Net, Thurs. 1900

KE Secondary: 146.475 MHz

4Cs Repeater: 145.110 MHz  
(TX down 600 with PL 82.5)

## Monthly Meetings

In-person meetings

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month  
7:00 pm

**(online via Zoom for now)**

Arlington Park Clubhouse,  
1120 Arlington Blvd,  
El Cerrito, CA

The next meetings are:

Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Meeting minutes are on  
the website in the past  
events page.

## What's New

### **KARO ECHO Monthly Meeting, Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>, 1900 — ONLINE VIA ZOOM**

The monthly KARO ECHO meeting will be held using the Zoom online meeting app, at the usual time, 1900, Monday Jan. 10th. Find the link to join in a KARO ECHO email from Howdy KE6BEE. The training portion will focus on tools for net control management of moving operators off net frequency and a digital net report. [Full agenda link.](#)

### **Vote on revised KARO ECHO Constitution/Bylaws at January meeting**

At the January 10 meeting there will be a vote on the revised Constitution/Bylaws prepared by the update committee (Don NI6A and Martha K6ELO) with input from a number of members. Many thanks to everyone for their work on this. Please review the [clean revised constitution](#) or [revised constitution in red markup](#) (it has been posted and noticed for the 30 day review period). Here is a link to the [existing constitution](#) for reference. We currently have 16 voting members for 2022. It is still possible to [pay 2022 dues online](#) before the vote. The new constitution has a 1 month grace period, but membership ends 12/31 in the existing one.

### **KARO ECHO Board Officer Elections**

Elections for Board officers were held at the Dec. 13, 2021 meeting. The following individuals were elected: President (Howdy KE6BEE), Vice-President (Frans KJ6IUV), Secretary (Tom KN6BUY), and Treasurer (Annette KJ6SWK). Thank you to the nomination committee (Don NI6A and Annette KJ6SWK).

### **Composition of KARO ECHO Board**

The four elected officers, at the first Board meeting of the year on January 5, voted to approve past President Hal KK6NDF as a Board member-at-large for 2022. There was also confirmation that Blake KN6CMP remains on the board as the Outreach manager and Rob K6RJM is on the Board as Web-maestro, for a total of 7 current members. Additional board members may be added in the future.

### **Reminder to Renew Your Membership Dues—Online payment available**

Yearly membership dues are \$30/year for individuals, \$40/year for a family membership. Mail to: KARO ECHO, PO Box 2025, 6324 Fairmont Ave, El Cerrito, CA 94530-3651 Thank you to Martha K6ELO and new treasurer Annette KJ6SWK for adding the online payment option available on the website and [with this link.](#)

**LOCAL NETS****KARO ECHO Simplex Nets**

146.415 MHz (primary)

146.475 (secondary)

**Voice net:** Thursday, after the West Contra Costa RACES Net, but not before 1900 hours local time.

**Digital net:** Monday, 1900

**West Contra County ACS/RACES Net**

145.110 MHz repeater  
(TX down 600 with PL 82.5)  
Thursday: 1845 local time

**Contra Costa County HF EmComm/RACES Net**

3893 KHz. Thursday, 1835

**American Red Cross of the Bay Area (ARCBA)**

WW6BAY Repeater  
443.975 MHz  
TX +5 MHz, PL 100 Hz  
Wednesday: 2000 local time

**BOARD MEMBERS**

President: Howdy KE6BEE  
Vice-Pres: Frans KJ6IUV  
Treasurer: Annette KJ6SWK  
Secretary: Tom KN6BUY  
Em. Coor: Howdy KE6BEE  
Outreach/PR Manager:  
Blake KN6CMP  
Web-maestro: Rob K6RJM  
Board member at large:  
Hal KK6NDF  
Net Manager and Newsletter  
Editor: Howdy KE6BEE

**What's New *(continued)*****Neighborhood nets and Communication Hub Activities**

The first Wednesday of the month has a lot of radio activity in the area.

**West county EmComm net out of Richmond at 11 am** (starts after the Richmond siren test) FRS/GRMS simplex (on Ch.19, secondary Ch. 17), followed by a ham net on the [WA6KQB 440 repeater](#) with WA6DUR repeater as secondary (see WA6DUR freq. information below)

**East Richmond Heights**, ham operators check-in at 1845 on Walt's WA6DUR repeater 442.150 +5 offset and PL tone 107.2Hz.

**EC4 (central El Cerrito Hills)** CERT Net, Ch. 2 (462.5875), at 1845

**EC9 (north El Cerrito Hills)** CERT Net, Ch. 15 simplex (462.550), at 1900

**East Richmond Heights, Ready-2-React Net**, Ch. 7 (462.7125), at 1930

**EC8 (north El Cerrito)** CERT net, Ch.4 (462.6375), at 2000

**Ken6 (SW Kensington)** CERT net, on first Tuesdays, Ch. 6 (462.6875) at 1900

**Richmond simulated EOC net**, first Thursdays at 1030, on three simplex frequencies in this order: 147.450, 441.000, 223.400

**Albany Radio Net**, Wed. (weekly) 1900 on Ch.19 [Albany Radio groups.io](#)  
[Coordination of neighborhood FRS/GMRS frequencies can be found here.](#)

**Welcome New Hams**

New El Cerrito licenses issued: none in past month

New Kensington licenses issued: none in past month

**Action - Contribute to this Newsletter**

Content for this newsletter is always welcome. We are seeking submissions for a new free classified section for selling/trading radio equipment/services. Anyone with events or other content suggestions please send them to the newsletter editor Howdy [ke6bee@arrl.net](mailto:ke6bee@arrl.net)

**Digital Net, Wed. 1/12, 1930**

Because of the member meeting on Monday, the digital net will be on Wed. 1/12, at 1930 on 146.415, including FLdigi/FLmsg, 1200 baud AX.25 (packet), discussion and more. Rob K6RJM also recently setup a packet BBS on 144.910 (connect to K6RJM-1) it will allow you to create a digital mailbox there.

## What's New *(continued)*

### Message from new Treasurer Annette KJ6SWK

If you are like me and have trouble getting around to mailing a check for your KARO-ECHO membership dues YOUR TIME HAS COME. You are now able to pay online through PayPal (thanks to help from Martha K6ELO)! No PayPal account is required. Use the [donate button on the KARO ECHO home](#) page, or under the heading "[Get Involved—Join](#)". There are equivalent embedded links and donate buttons in multiple places on the website that can be used to pay dues and make general donations.

A couple of comments might help. First, since Karo-Echo is a non-profit, the wording says that you are making a donation instead of paying dues, and your dues are deductible. An introductory paragraph tells you that our dues are \$30 for an individual or \$40 for all HAMS in a household. We are VERY appreciative of donations beyond the dues owed. I will record any payment above dues owed as both dues and a donation. To enter your payment, start typing where the cursor is beside the large zeros (they will not delete but will be overwritten as you type). There is a box to check if you are willing to cover our cost for the transaction which is currently \$1.09 (a first class stamp is \$0.58, so this isn't much more than to pay for the convenience). A few minutes after you complete the payment a receipt should pop up in your email.

Of course, you are also still welcome to mail your dues, as always.  
KARO-ECHO, P.O. Box 2025, El Cerrito, CA 94530-5025.

Your dues and donations are the source of funds for our ongoing costs of operation, as well as installing equipment we need to have in place for effective emergency operations. Currently, we are planning to install additional antennas and patch boxes in El Cerrito and Kensington to give easy outdoor access to high quality communication for operators deployed various public spaces.



### Treasurer's Report

#### Treasurer's Report December 2021

Annette KK6SWK, Treasurer

Balance Forward From 11/30/21		1399.17	
Check	-20.85	1378.32	
Deposit	70.00	1448.32	AJ6RZ, KM6TCB
1/04/22 Bank Balance		1448.32	
Checks to be Deposited	160.00	1608.32	KJ6IUV, KM6HFT, KE6BEE/KN6CRP KM6HBO, NI6A
PayPal to be Transferred	148.63	1756.96	KN6BUY, KE6HCE, KK6NDF, KJ6SWK, K6ELO
Balance 1/9/22		1756.96	

Anticipated expense 1/22: Mail box for 12 months \$176.00

Thank you to all of the donations and membership payments that support our club.

---

## Member Column

---

### **What happens to phone signals when the power goes out—Annette KJ6SWK**

I had a rather intimate experience with this issue during the latest large Sierra snow storm. I was staying with my daughter's family in Alta, CA. The power went out early in the morning of 12/27/21. We still had cell signal until early Thursday when it dropped rapidly to unusable (especially with an old phone). We no longer had any communication, or source of information (except radio)!

The cell sites have reserve power which does eventually run out (or can fail for other reasons). In this case the cell signal was restored before the power returned at the house. Clearly the phone company had refilled the power source (either generator or battery).

Why is this of interest to KARO ECHO? As we have seen in the news of various disasters lately, when there is massive damage to the power infrastructure (or a long PSPS), radio that doesn't need complex outside infrastructure, is the only reliable means of communication. Therefore experiences with how these smaller events play out will help us think about how we could be prepare to be most helpful to ourselves and others in a larger disasters.

- Annette KJ6SWK



## Activities

### Weekly Net Control Rotation

Thanks go out to the volunteer stations who have been taking turns as Net Control Stations (NCS) each Thursday. This rotation has been working very well and everyone has been doing a great job. The regular NCS roster has 9 operators. We have one opening as an opportunity for others to fill in. Please volunteer to give it a try. [Download the new Net Script for NCS operators.](#)

Below are the **new scheduled dates** for each operator next year. The [KARO ECHO google calendar](#) also has these assignments and can be found at the bottom of the events page. Add to your electronic calendar By pressing the "+GoogleCalendar" button in the lower right.

Net control is a skill that many operators should have and regularly practice. Please contact Howdy [ke6bee@arrl.net](mailto:ke6bee@arrl.net) if you are interested in taking a net control assignment.

Callsign	Name	Assigned Dates (skipped: Thanksgiving 11/25/2021, 11/24/2022)						
KE6BEE	Howdy Goudey	10/21/2021	12/30/2021	3/3/2022	5/5/2022	7/7/2022	9/8/2022	11/10/2022
KK6NDF	Hal Graboske	10/28/2021	1/6/2022	3/10/2022	5/12/2022	7/14/2022	9/15/2022	11/17/2022
KM6HBO	Jamuel Starkey	11/4/2021	1/13/2022	3/17/2022	5/19/2022	7/21/2022	9/22/2022	12/1/2022
KN6BUY	Tom Fattaruso	11/11/2021	1/20/2022	3/24/2022	5/26/2022	7/28/2022	9/29/2022	12/8/2022
K6RJM	Rob McNicholas	11/18/2021	1/27/2022	3/31/2022	6/2/2022	8/4/2022	10/6/2022	12/15/2022
KE6HCE	Armando Picciotto	12/2/2021	2/3/2022	4/7/2022	6/9/2022	8/11/2022	10/13/2022	12/22/2022
NI6A	Don Simon	12/9/2021	2/10/2022	4/14/2022	6/16/2022	8/18/2022	10/20/2022	12/29/2022
KN6CMR	Susan Yeaman	12/16/2021	2/17/2022	4/21/2022	6/23/2022	8/25/2022	10/27/2022	1/5/2023
KK6ZPM	Karen Fenton-Leong	12/23/2021	2/24/2022	4/28/2022	6/30/2022	9/1/2022	11/3/2022	1/12/2023

### Thursday Net Training Exercises

Following the net check-ins every Thursday at 1900 on 146.415, KARO ECHO usually runs a training exercise to learn and practice skills that are important for successful disaster communications.

[A list of potential training exercises](#) is posted and maintained on the training page of the website.

[A log of our check-in counts can be found here.](#) Howdy KE6BEE typically updates this document in real time during the net, so you can check it against your log during or after the net.

For 2020: 1008 check-ins, avg. 21/week, high of 28, 72 unique callsigns.

For 2021: 919 check-ins, avg. 19/week, high of 25, 54 unique callsigns.

Thanks for your participation. Keep it up!

---

## About KARO ECHO

---

KARO ECHO is the name of the Kensington Amateur Radio Operators and the El Cerrito Ham Operators mutual benefit association, an all-volunteer non-profit group of amateur radio operators providing auxiliary communications for the cities of Kensington and El Cerrito in the event of a disaster. KARO ECHO works with CERT (Community Emergency Response Teams) in Kensington and El Cerrito, but is not an official part of the CERT program.

Monthly in-person meetings of KARO ECHO are on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 pm, online using Zoom. The next meetings are:

- ♦ Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022
- ♦ Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Yearly membership dues are \$30/year for individuals, \$40/year for a family membership. Payments can be given to the Treasurer at monthly meetings or mailed to the address below. Participation is welcome independent of paid membership, but only licensed amateur radio operators who are dues paying KARO ECHO members will be allowed to vote on KARO ECHO business. Dues cover our 510c3 registration, post office box, web page, station operating manuals and more. Your input on useful expenditures to aid emergency communications is welcome.

Mail to: KARO ECHO, PO Box 2025, 6324 Fairmont Ave, El Cerrito, CA 94530-3651

Please see our website for more information: [www.karoecho.net](http://www.karoecho.net)

You can contact the KARO ECHO board by email: [info@karoecho.net](mailto:info@karoecho.net)

### KARO ECHO Facebook

The [KARO ECHO Group on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1451216838315743/) has a lot of good information, more than is contained on our website. There is a whole wide world of emergency communications information at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1451216838315743/> Check it out and be inspired of what we can do to help disaster victims in our community.

### Weekly Training Net

The Karo-Echo Weekly Training Net meets every Thursday evening immediately after the West Co Co County RACES/ACS Net; but not before 1900 on 146.415 MHz Simplex. Our secondary frequency is 146.475 MHz simplex. Details at <https://www.karoecho.net/events>

### Newsletter Content Wanted

Any input on content you'd like to propose for inclusion in the KARO ECHO newsletter can be sent to Howdy [ke6bee@arrl.net](mailto:ke6bee@arrl.net) We welcome all ideas for content including announcements, events, etc.

### KARO ECHO Field Day Video

Thanks to Frans KJ6IUV for taking video and editing a nice [movie of Field Day activities](#).



---

## Outreach, Education and Licensing

---

### Local and Online Ham License Classes and Exams

COVID restrictions have changed ham license classes and exams. Many are now offered in distanced/outdoor venues or entirely online. See a [list of opportunities on the KARO ECHO website](#)

### ARRL Learning Network Webinars

Visit the [ARRL Learning Network](#) (a members-only benefit) to register, check on upcoming webinars, and to view previously recorded sessions.

### Recruiting Additional Communications Coordinators

Read the [Neighborhood District Radio Communications Coordinator \(DRCC\) plan](#) written by Don NI6A.

### Training for Beginning Operators

Thanks to Jay KJ6WSS, Edward KM6UBY and Karen KK6ZPM for their May 23rd 2020 introductory radio class, with emphasis on the GMRS radio BTECH-V1. [A recording of the class and other resources are available here.](#)

### Net Control Operator Training

Diane KK6RED, David KJ6AAT and Howdy KE6BEE taught an Apr 4th 2020 net control class for C8 the county wide CERT organization. There was a great reception to this class across the county and we inspired many groups to expand the scope of their net trainings. [The class recording is available here.](#)

### EMCOMM related videos

See the CERT SET Youtube video link

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=66DdgGLIn4c&list=PLROOaUIKdrEgSID1bQJZojW3PzfURoEY-&index=144&t=0s>

Post Camp Fire GMRS organization

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=220&v=aZiSC4sgKYw&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=220&v=aZiSC4sgKYw&feature=emb_logo)

### ELMERING

An online elmering forum can be accessed by emailing [elmer@karoecho.net](mailto:elmer@karoecho.net) or browsing the associated google group. More in-depth elmering/mentoring is available by request.

In the meanwhile, please check out the plethora of useful information at <https://www.karoecho.net> website.

### Encouragement to Monitor 146.415 and Explore Other Nets

During the current shelter in place, with time spent at home, it is a good opportunity to use your radio and monitor 146.415 (call out for others occasionally and make some casual contacts). There are a lot of other nets around the bay area that you can reach. Expand your radio horizons. See the [KARO ECHO Coordination page](#) for a listing of some other nets to explore. You can just listen at first, or program your radio (if a repeater is used) and try transmitting as a guest check-in to see if you can make contact.

---

## KAROECHO.Net Website

---

Especially, check out the EVENTS Page ( <https://www.karoecho.net/events> ) and the WORKSTREAMS drop-down menu which will lead one to an extensive training page that provides online learning at your own pace. Everything from the very beginning to advanced EmComm operations is detailed. The RESOURCE page has many excellent outside links.

- ♦ This [new heading on the Events page](#) will be updated with recent additions to the website.
- ♦ If you are on Facebook, contribute to the KARO ECHO Facebook Group Page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1451216838315743/>
- ♦ If you haven't already filled out the **JOIN** form please do. Find it as a drop down menu under "Get Involved" See <https://www.karoecho.net/join>
- ♦ A [follow-through novice primer](#) has been put on the website for new hams once they have bought their radio and want to learn more.
- ♦ A [dual-band antenna primer](#) for new hams who want to graduate from the rubber-ducky world
- ♦ Note that the Tram 1480 gain dual band antenna is currently still available for \$51 (no tax and free shipping) on ebay or from Home Depot. That and an inexpensive speaker tripod is a dynamite combination for portable operation. This antenna is equivalent to the Diamond X-200a antenna which sells at HRO for \$125.00 before taxes and shipping.
- ♦ For newbies, please visit <https://www.karoecho.net/workstreams/training> and read the study materials. It is all there except for hands-on experience. Ask questions!
- ♦ Following the Thursday evening net check-in, there is often a training session and/or discussion.
- ♦ All recent KARO ECHO [Minutes will be found at our Past Events page](#) We are now including past Executive Board Minutes as well. [Newsletters are on the Documents Page](#).

If you desire to be removed from this email list, please email [info@karoecho.net](mailto:info@karoecho.net)

---

## Other Resources

---

"ALERTWildfire" camera links in our area:

[William Rust Summit cam](#)

[Wildcat Canyon cam](#)

[Vollmer Peak cam](#)

[Nichol Knob cam](#)

[View real-time data from any weather station in the state.](#)

[Zonehaven evacuation zone here by on this interactive map](#)

[Albany Radio Groups.io forum](#)

[Eastbay Resilience Groups.io forum](#)

[Marina Bay Neighbors and 1st Wed West county GMRS net](#)

To make it easy for amateurs to evaluate RF exposure, ARRL provides an [RF exposure calculator](#) on its [RF Exposure page](#).



---

## KARO ECHO Classifieds

---

We are soliciting classified ads from KARO ECHO members, and friends, to facilitate gifting, swapping, selling radio gear and/or offering help/services such as loans of special equipment/tools, etc. Please send any content to the newsletter editor, Howdy [ke6bee@arrl.net](mailto:ke6bee@arrl.net)

---

### ARRL license plate frame

\$0.50 for full KARO ECHO members

\$1.00 for others, Proceeds go to KARO ECHO

Contact Don [ni6a@arrl.net](mailto:ni6a@arrl.net)



---

**Free Elmer support** for KARO ECHO by Don NI6A. Phone, email and home consultations regarding antennas, SWR, assembly of coax and Anderson power pole connectors, lending of special test equipment, etc. Contact: [elmer@karoecho.net](mailto:elmer@karoecho.net) for "free advice"

---

### Loaner radios/antennas/meters available for trial/testing, including:

HTs, larger mobile radios, gear for digital modes and mesh nodes, SWR/power meter

Contact: Howdy [ke6bee@arrl.net](mailto:ke6bee@arrl.net)

---

**Available for free:** B&K Precision 2120B oscilloscope - 20MHz bandwidth, dual trace, triggered sweep. Contact: Tom, KN6BUY, at [tfat@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tfat@sbcglobal.net)

---

**Chirp Elmering HELP WANTED:** Edward KM6UBY [posted instructions on the Marina Bay Neighbors training website](#) to use CHIRP to load Jay's KJ6WSS WCC memory program of .img or .csv files for a variety of ham radios and the GMRS V1 radio. I hope to find Elmers located throughout WCC to direct the new recruits for help programming their radios. Anyone interested in helping, please contact me directly. Karen KK6ZPM

---

Natalie KM6UCF donated the six 2020 issues of the bimonthly ARRL "On the Air" magazine. Includes some good articles on transmission lines, go-kits, propagation, antennas, etc. Also, four books, including the ARRL Operating Manual which is a good reference.

Free to any member, modest donations to KARO-ECHO welcomed. Contact: Don [ni6a@arrl.net](mailto:ni6a@arrl.net)

Some items shown may have been taken.

